F. Creation of Archives Offices in the Universities

(6) Resolution by Shri F.M. Hassnain

"Resolved that the Universities should organise Archival Cells for preserving their records on scientific lines. It is further recommended that necessary assistance may be obtained from the University Grants Commission in this behalf."

Explanatory Note:

Most of the Universities in the country do not have well organised record offices and important records, data and statistics are left at the mercy of the untrained clerks with the result that at the time of requisition for such documents, the students and the candidates have to suffer. As such, it may be made binding upon all the Universities to organise their record offices on scientific lines to be managed by trained archivists. Previous resolutions in this regard have not borne tangible results.

Standing Committee's views:

Two similar resolutions were moved at the last Session (44th). The Chairman of the Session observed that a similar resolution /Resolution XIV of the 38th Session, (1967)_7 was passed earlier. It was hoped that the University Professors who were assembled there would take personal interest in this matter and ask for necessary funds from the University Grants Commission and advice from the National Archives of India. The resolution can be reiterated.

G. Technical advice to the Maharashtra State Archives for construction of modern Archival Building.

(7) Resolution by Shri H.L. Gupta

"It is resolved(suggested) that the Director of National Archives be requested to look into the problems of space and preservation arrangements in those Archives and take initiative in rendering expert technical advice to the Maharashtra State Government for providing a well-equipped modern building with full scientific arrangements for the preservation of the Archival wealth as a priority measure."

Explanatory Note:

This resolution is based on an alarming newspaper report of the Hindustan Times Correspondent, published in the Hindustan Times of September 1, 1976, indicating the insufficient and improper housing condition of the State Papers in Maharashtra Archival repositories. In that report it is mentioned that rare books, state papers and documents of immense historical value in Maharashtra face a serious risk of damage and decay. These records are kept at several places such as the Bombay Archives, Pune Archives and Kolhapur Archives and comprise millions of documents pertaining to the modern period ranging from the 17th to the 20th century.

The Estimates Committee of the Maharashtra State Legislature has taken cognizance of this fact and has asked the Government to take early steps to provide a well-equipped modern building to preserve the historical heritage insulated from the ravages of time.

The object of moving this resolution is to reinforce the need for better building, better equipment and better preservation arrangements for housing and preservation of historical records. Enquiries may be made from the Director of the records repositories mentioned in the resolution and if the newspaper report is found authentic my resolution may be placed before the Commission with a view to drawing the attention of the Maharashtra State Government to provide suitable and adequate space for housing their records in their various repositories.

Standing Committee's views:

Although its objectives are laudable, this resolution cannot be supported in its present form, since it would be constitutionally inappropriate for the Director of Archives, National Archives of India, to intervene officially in the

matter without being invited to do so by the State Archives concerned. However, technical advice will be rendered if request is made.

H. Provision of special grants for the Development of State Archives

(8) Resolution by Madhya Pradesh Government

"Resolved that the Commission should impress upon the Central Government to provide special grants for the development programmes of State Archives on priority basis."

Explanatory Note:

The resolution itself is a self explanatory. Needless to say that the Commission in their several meetings have felt for such an urgent need and for this purpose a committee was also set up under the Chairmanship of the Director, National Archives of India. This Committee had a long discussion with the Planning Cell which also brought fruits for the development of Archives in the country.

The various States like Madhya Pradesh, Haryana who have recently organised the State Archives have their own problems or some of the States who intend to organise the Archives have their own limitations. It is hardly necessary to say that the State Governments are leaving no stone unturned to organise the State repositories but the limited resources prevent them to provide more funds to the Archives. Therefore, it would in the fitness of the things that the Central Government should provide on top priority basis some special grants for the State Archives which has recently been set up. The various problems such as buildings, equipments etc., can be tackled only if such grant is made available to the State Archives.